

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

S E C R E T TEGUCIGALPA 000759

SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA, WHA/CCA, WHA/CEN, AND WHA/PPC
STATE FOR DRL, DRL/MLA, IO, AND INR/AN/IAA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/01/2014

TAGS: PHUM PREL PINR KDEM CU HO CHR

SUBJECT: HONDURAS RELEASES TEXT OF UNCHR CUBA RESOLUTION;
PRESIDENT MADURO EMPHASIZES IMPORTANCE OF DEMOCRACY

REF: A. PALMER/LINDWALL/PIERCE E-MAILS 3/31 AND 4/1

- 1B. TEGUCIGALPA 741
- 1C. TEGUCIGALPA 738
- 1D. GENEVA 885
- 1E. STATE 68031
- 1F. STATE 65652
- 1G. STATE 62815
- 1H. TEGUCIGALPA 595 AND PREVIOUS

Classified By: Ambassador Larry Palmer;
Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

1. (U) Honduran Foreign Minister Leonidas Rosa Bautista called Ambassador just prior to 11:00 a.m. to inform Ambassador that the MFA had released the text of the UN Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) Cuba Resolution. The text was included in a press release that laid out the GOH's reasons for sponsoring the resolution. The Honduran Embassy in Washington sent the press release, under cover of a diplomatic note, to WHA/CEN prior to the document being released. The MFA subsequently faxed the press release to the Embassy. Post will send an informal translation of the press release by septel.

2. (S) Post had learned a short time earlier that, at 9:00 a.m., the Director of Protocol at the MFA, Ambassador Ricardo Flores, who has traveled to Cuba on several occasions, had delivered the text of the resolution to Cuban Ambassador Gonzalez Polanco. Gonzalez told Flores that Cuba viewed the resolution as a hostile act against Cuba, ordered by Honduras' "superiors." He said the resolution represented interference in internal Cuban affairs, with no legal or moral basis. He added that he was saddened by the language which the "Yanquis" had given to the Hondurans. As Flores left, Gonzalez gave him three copies of the book "The Dissidents." There was no commentary on how the Honduran action would affect Cuban-Honduran bilateral relations.

3. (C) Post understands that the GOH waited to issue the press release until after First Lady Aguas Ocana de Maduro had left Cuba at the conclusion of her March 28 - April 1 trip to seek Cuban assistance for centers for abused women and children in Honduras.

4. (U) When asked by reporters March 31 about whether or not the U.S. had asked Honduras to draft a resolution, President Ricardo Maduro stated that "We are not talking about where a request originated, we are talking about certain principles. In the last two years, since my administration assumed office, I have been a very clear defender of democracy, political pluralism, and freedom of expression. Hondurans feel profoundly proud of what we have done in the last 23 years since the adoption of a new constitution in 1981, with respect to democratization and participation." Maduro noted that the GOH for the last two years had supported UNCHR Cuba resolutions that had called on Cuba to receive a representative of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, something Cuba had yet to do. "This is what it is about, principles, democracy, and I will act based on that. This is what I do internationally, what the country does, it is an extension of the principles which Hondurans live with internally and that we have fought for and will continue to fight for in the future, nothing more, nothing less."

Criticism Expands from Cubans in Press

5. (U) The Honduran press continued to report Cuban criticism of the GOH's actions. After the GOH issued the press release, the GOH was sharply criticized by some TV and radio commentators. Post will send septel reporting on media reaction in more detail.
PALMER